

Council Navigates Challenging Petitions-and-Requests Period

by Cathie Meetre

Mayor Emmett Jordan, after a moment of silence in remembrance of Tom Simon and Rhea Serlemitsos, who both died recently, opened the council meeting of December 13 by praising former Councilmembers Ed Putens and Leta Mach. He handed off to Tom Reynolds, director of education for the Maryland Municipal League, to present an award to both. Because neither former councilmember was present, Councilmember Judith Davis

requested a more in-person celebration of their service in the near future.

Silence is Golden

In the petitions-and-requests period, resident Daniel Theis pointed out that the rules pertaining to petitions and requests provide a span of time for comment by the public. He requested that council not respond to or comment during this time – partly to

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

Tim George Named Acting City Manager, Replacing Nicole Ard

by Cathie Meetre

On Saturday, December 18, the city posted an announcement that City Manager Nicole Ard's last day was that same day. A series of work-sessions, starting in August, had been held by the Greenbelt City Council to discuss Ard's tenure, but as closed sessions relating



Nicole Ard

PHOTO COURTESY NICOLE ARD

to employment, these sessions had resulted in no public information except that the discussion related to her performance evaluation.

The announcement was brief.

See **MANAGER**, page 11



Tim George

COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

December Days Videos Laud Greenbelt Diversity and Talent

by Julie Rapp

A rich tapestry, a holiday sampler or a smorgasbord of Greenbelt life are all apt descriptions for the series of videos woven together and available for viewing online. Known as December Days, the videos were filmed and produced as a response to the cancellation of Greenbelt's traditional tree lighting ceremony. Chris Cherry, the performing arts program coordinator with Greenbelt Recreation, conceived of the idea stating, "A sampler or smorgasbord came to mind, since both are collections of treats served during the holidays." The project included a release of a new video every day between December 1 and 15 as a way to connect the community; all 15 videos in this series continue to stream. The videos capture a variety of holiday traditions, depict mouthwatering foods and interesting homemade crafts to make, provide health and wellness tips



SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO BY CHRIS CHERRY

Dawane Martinez makes Spanish Rice for the December Days videos.

and include stories and beautiful music. All the videos feature Greenbelt residents.

It is an open question as to whether December Days will become a yearly event. Many

organizations have provided virtual programming during the pandemic, with an acknowledgment that they have been able to reach

See **DECEMBER**, page 3

Schools Go Back to Virtual With Rapid Covid-19 Ramp-up

by Amy Hansen

Prince George's County Public Schools are virtual again until mid-January, Chief Executive Officer Monica Goldson announced on Friday, December 17. "In light of the stark rise in Covid-19 cases throughout our school system, all students will transition to virtual learning," she wrote. Virtual learning will be in effect until Tuesday, January 18.

"Educators, administrators and support staff must be able to deliver in-person instruction and other activities in conditions

that prioritize their own health, as well as the wellbeing of the school community. The increased positivity rates have significantly challenged the ability to do so, causing anxiety among many school communities and disruption to the school day," she wrote. Goldson has access to individual schools' positivity rates, even as Maryland Department of Health reporting of Covid-19 cases was curtailed by a network security incident.

Obviously, the change will

disrupt the lives of families with school-age children who now need to be home again. It will also change the lives of teachers, who are required to go back to the buildings to teach even as the students are at home.

Emailing five teachers who live or teach in Greenbelt, the News Review heard that most have mixed feelings.

"Putting the safety of the students and their families first is

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

Recollections

My Life in December 1941

by Kathleen McFarland

Deanna Dawson's front-page article in last week's News Review brought back so many memories for me. I loved the photos, too. Did anybody notice that the Co-op Food Store was then located where the New Deal Café is now?

I must be one of only a few current residents of Greenbelt who lived here that December 7. I would have been a young teenager, in my sophomore year at Greenbelt High School. I remember that my father was listening to a football game on the radio that Sunday afternoon. He heard the announcer say that many people began leaving the stadium; something important had hap-



PHOTO BY BILL GUPTILL

Kathleen McFarland receives the Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Award in 2014.

pened. The next day, we gathered around the radio to hear President Franklin Roosevelt give his now famous "day of infamy" speech about the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. What I remember most is that most people had never heard of Pearl Harbor. Everyone was asking: "Where, or what, is Pearl Harbor?"

That Christmas, my friend Pat Brown and I, proud of our new accomplishments as members of the Greenbelt Community Band (which had been formed in the summer of 1940), asked Mr. Van Camp, the director of the Catholic choir, if we could bring our

See **MEMORIES**, page 3



PHOTO BY STEPHEN KEARNEY

A cold moon tops the city holiday tree in front of the municipal building.

Letters to the Editor

Greenbelt Proud

My heart burst with pride upon reading your insightful article on the restoration of LGBTQ links at the Catholic website. I have been a proud member of the LGBTQ community for many years and can assure you that slights of this sort are never acceptable. So hoist high that rainbow flag and forever may it fly! Hats off to you, Greenbelt News Review!

Trudy Croyeur

Let's Do This

I just want to encourage everyone to be extra diligent during this holiday/winter break season about safety protocols and testing before gathering with family or friends whom you're not normally around. At least one adult in Greenbelt recently tested positive for Covid-19 despite being completely asymptomatic. A PCR test is still considered the most accurate, and can be followed up with a home or rapid response test a few hours or just before getting together with others. Outdoor get-togethers with spaces between people are also still considered safer than being indoors.

Home tests can be purchased online or at a local store. Urgent care centers, county test sites and some pharmacies are good resources for PCR testing. Let's do this, Greenbelt!

Lin Orrin

Race in Reports

Like many of my fellow Greenbelters, I am concerned about the proliferation of violent crime in the city. Frequent reports of shootings, carjackings, robberies, assaults and other serious crimes are a grave concern to all.

I have noticed a peculiar trend recently where the victims of these heinous crimes appear to provide a thorough description of the assailant(s), yet as is standard practice, the suspect's ethnicity is not included in the News

Review's report. An example is the lead item in the December 9 Police Blotter – "Robbery: On November 30 at approximately 6:28 p.m." The last time a suspect's ethnicity appears to have been mentioned is on November 18. But it is absent in other reports prior. I find it hard to believe that the police are failing to obtain this important information when interviewing the victim, but it is not relayed in the News Review. Readers would find this detail helpful if they were to see people fitting the description of the perpetrators of these terrible crimes in their neighborhood so they could alert the police. It could be potentially lifesaving.

Stuart Williams

Editor's Note: It is the policy of this newspaper to not mention race when there is little else to help identify a suspected perpetrator.

Post Office Retirements

May all Greenbelters join my passion for our three dedicated Greenbelt postal workers, Angela Allen, Debra (Debbie) Burroughs and Chrystal Whitaker, who will be retiring on December 31.

These three women each have given almost three and a half decades of their lives serving the post office and our city. Both Chrystal and Debra delivered mail in Greenbelt for seven years and then worked the front desk for 27 years. Angela delivered Hyattsville's mail for five years before coming to serve our front desk for the past 26 years. They started working at the post office when it was underneath the Co-op and then were part of the great move over to Hanover Parkway.

They have helped us during times of holidays, taxes, sorrows and joys in our lives. They have helped us pay our bills, send love notes, letters and packages galore, not just locally but across the world. They have seen many of us move, get married, have children, the children have children, all of us get older and some of us get sick and die.

They have served us tirelessly, welcomed us warmly and efficiently, and they have gotten to know us personally. They have not only cared about making sure that the USPS operates in an effective manner, within their powers to do so, they have cared about us as individuals and as a community.

At a time when so few people stay in a job for decades then retire, a time when so much is automated or contracted out, and at a time when the Postal Service seems to be crumbling in so many ways, now is a wonderful time to acknowledge these three wonderful dedicated employees and wish them the best in their retirement.

Please join me in taking the time to say thank you and good bye before their last day of December 31.

Katrina Boverman

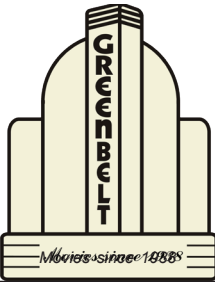


Holiday Deadlines

Since New Year's Day falls on a Saturday this year, there will be no change to the News Review deadlines for the holiday.

Ad Rate Notice

Effective January 1, 2022, the advertising rates will increase approximately 6 percent. See page 10 for details.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES
December 24th -
December 27th

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination OR negative PCR test (within 72 hours)
AND matching photo ID required for admission.
For more information call (301) 329-2034 or visit greenbelttheatre.org

NIGHTMARE ALLEY (R) (CC) (DVS) (2021) (150 MINS)

FRI. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
SAT. 5:00 PM
SUN. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
MON. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM

PETE REPERT



This week: Community Events are on page 5 and throughout the paper.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



Postal workers Angela Allen, Debra Burroughs, Chrystal Whitaker

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Nightmare Alley

When charismatic but down-on-his-luck Stanton Carlisle endears himself to clairvoyant Zeena and her has-been mentalist husband Pete at a traveling carnival, he crafts a golden ticket to success, using this newly acquired knowledge to grift the wealthy elite of 1940s New York society. Hoping for a big score, he soon hatches a scheme to con a dangerous tycoon with help from a mysterious psychiatrist who might be his most formidable opponent yet. Directed by Guillermo del Toro, starring Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, Toni Collette, Willem Dafoe, Richard Jenkins, Rooney Mara, Ron Perlman, Mary Steenburgen and David Strathairn.

Rated R. Running time 150 minutes.

MEMORIES continued from page 1

instruments and play Christmas carols before Midnight Mass. We persuaded Billy Baxter to come with his cornet; Pat had her flute and I my clarinet and we played carols like, O Little Town of Bethlehem and The First Noel. Back then, Sunday Mass was held at the Greenbelt Theater. The altar was on the stage and the choir was located near the exit door to the left of the stage. Father Fealy from Holy Redeemer church in Berwyn Heights came each Sunday to say Mass. Mrs. Madden accompanied the choir on a little manual organ. The parish of St. Hugh's was not formed until 1947, when Father Dowgiallo was sent to Greenbelt.

I remember our town as being very quiet in the war years that began that December. The town consisted only of the original homes and the new frame "defense houses." New cars were not made because everything went for the war effort. Fathers were working overtime and a few of my friends' mothers even got jobs to fill the positions left by the young men who were drafted into the service. Sugar and other items were rationed. I remember my mother making black-out curtains. My sister Joanne and I even signed up to be airplane-spotters. In later years, Joanne wrote a humorous poem about

that and you can read it at the end of her obituary, page 9 of the News Review of January 14, 2016. The poem is titled "Airplane Spotters, 1943."

At Greenbelt High, there was much turnover in teachers. Our first principal, Mr. Sliker, had been replaced by Mr. Barnhart, a family man who actually lived here in town. The popular science teacher, Mr. Brengle, immediately left to be an officer in the Navy. It seemed like every few months we had a new science teacher. Mrs. Ditman, whose husband was a scientist in Beltsville, was my favorite. I graduated in June of 1944. Our 1944 yearbook, the Pylon, was dedicated to the memory of William Peter Sommers, class of 1942, killed in the South Pacific. His mother, Mrs. Sommers, a friend of our family, became Greenbelt's first gold-star mother.

It's wonderful that we can now read about those earlier days in the newly digitized Greenbelt News Review. Every time I've gone into the Archives looking to establish a date for things I remember, I've been captivated by the number of interesting articles of all kinds. Many thanks to all those who've worked to make it easier and more fun to read our town paper. I'm so proud that I'm still listed on the masthead.



Greenbelt High School band director Paul Garret gives a clarinet lesson to Kathleen McFarland, then Kathleen Scott, in July 1940.



The Mother and Child statue basks in the Winter Lights Festival display in Roosevelt Center.

DECEMBER continued from page 1

a much larger audience, including community members who were never able to attend in-person programming. Cherry explained, "I wish I could say that we can do all of the programming we did prior to the pandemic, plus all the new programming we have been doing since the pandemic began, but time, staffing and resources won't suddenly double once Covid is tamed."

Teamwork

Although Cherry handled the bulk of the filming and editing, he was provided some assistance by collaborating with a production partner, Greenbelt Access Television (GATe). "By sharing the shooting and editing duties, we were able to produce a fuller slate of offerings than either of us could have done working alone. Phoebe McFarb of GATe not only filmed and edited four of the videos, but she provided technical assistance and a much needed second pair of eyes," stated Cherry. A second collaborator was Kevin Wilson of the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt who filmed and produced the fascinating and informative video, The Starry Winter Sky, describing to viewers in a clear and concise manner how to identify phenomena in the December night sky.

Greenbelters Showcased

The videos capture the passion and generosity of Greenbelters as they present a family recipe or a cherished tradition, or display enthusiasm for art, fitness, films, books and history. Cherry, a Greenbelt resident himself, enjoyed filming neighbors and colleagues and described the experience by saying it was "a joy, seeing them light up as they demonstrated or shared something." Cherry loved the variety of the series but expressed a soft spot for the final video, A Candle in the Window, the first video he made from last December and reprised this year. "I think it succeeded in expressing both the sadness and the hope we were all feeling during the shutdown, before any vaccines were available," said Cherry.

Popular View

As of noon Friday, December 17, there had been 5,916 views across the platforms featuring the series: City YouTube, City Facebook, Greenbelt Recreation Facebook and GATe. Greenbelters can watch Vijay Parameshwaran in Chalk It Up to the Season as he draws a delightful design for Diwali or watch other videos to learn how to make latkes or a pine cone owl. Follow the Drinking Gourd, a short film that will delight children, highlights how Black enslaved people escaped to freedom by following the North Star. For those who seek to shed a few pounds or learn to relax in a busy season, be sure to watch Shape Up with a Winter Workout or Take a Breath. There is something for everyone: enchanting music, film recommendations, book suggestions and much, much more. As stated by Cherry, "Most of all, these films affirm the continued vitality of our community and its institutions, for which we can all be grateful."



Trevin Green, Aquatic & Fitness Coordinator, demonstrates a workout.


- Screenshots from videos by Chris Cherry



Vijay Parameshwaran creates chalk artwork.



Dr. Lois Rosado reads the Drinking Gourd.






Greenbelt Access Television

Greenbelt Access Television
Dec 24, Fri – Dec 30, Thu

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station		
7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	Classic Movies with Ron MacCloskey	Scrooge • 1935 Seymour Hicks
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Accokeek v Robert Goddard Middle
2pm	Music at the New Deal	Open Mic • with Host Lynn Hollyfield
3pm	Classic Movies with Ron MacCloskey	Scrooge • 1935 Seymour Hicks
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Accokeek v Robert Goddard Middle
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	Classic Movies with Ron MacCloskey	Scrooge • 1935 Seymour Hicks
10pm	Music at the New Deal	Open Mic • with Host Lynn Hollyfield
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming

Connect with GATe



www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

Obituaries

Julie Gaebe



Julie Gaebe

Greenbelter Julie Gaebe died suddenly on November 26, 2021. She was 74. Born in Germany to an army family, she lived across the world as a “military brat”, graduating from Zama American High School in Japan. She went on to get her bachelor’s degree in English, master’s degree in home economics and professional training in education. She touched countless lives as a skilled, caring and committed special education teacher for 38 years, including 15 years at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt.

Julie was a world traveler and lifelong learner, studying and practicing polarity therapy, craniosacral therapy and many spiritual paths. She was curious, outgoing and intuitive, easily engaging in conversation with everyone she met. She loved Greenbelt and living in GHI where she moved in 1993. She could be seen around Greenbelt walking the lake path, volunteering at the Old Greenbelt Theatre, socializing with neighbors in her garden, viewing celestial wonders at Northway Fields, drumming with Katie Gaughan, taking yoga at the Community Center, working the polls or picking up carry-out at Cedars of Lebanon. Julie is survived by her siblings, Tom (Bobbie) Gaebe (California), Jan Donnelly (Ohio) and Laurie (Artie) Henderson (Kentucky); many nieces and nephews, as well as a host of close friends; two beloved “adopted” goddaughters, Alexis and Erykka Thompson; and her cat.

An outdoor Celebration of Life will be held on June 11, 2022. For details, email acrowley@comcast.net. Donations in her memory can be made to the Old Greenbelt Theatre.



Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



James Wooddell



James R. Wooddell

James Robert Wooddell, 67, formerly of Greenbelt, died on December 2, 2021.

Jim was born on February 1, 1954, the son of the late Robert Merle Wooddell and Virginia Dare Wooddell and brother to Rita Kay Wooddell. He is a 1972 graduate of Parkdale High School and a graduate of the University of Maryland.

He loved traveling, golfing and riding his Indian motorcycle. He was an outstanding healthcare administrator and was passionate about caring for the elderly. His greatest joy was his grandchildren and great-grandchild. He was a loving and thoughtful gentleman and highly respected by many.

Jim is survived by his wife, Janice Kay (Parker) Wooddell of Glen Jean, W.Va.; daughters Emily Hess (Jeff Hess) and Lori Wooddell (Phil Gladden); grandsons Dylan and Ean Hess and Michael Martin (Tara Martin); great-grandson Micah; Seth and Abigail Carson; and his faithful basset hound, Molly.

He was preceded in death by his grandson Jacob Hess.

A celebration of life service was held on December 11, 2021, at Sun Full Gospel Church in Sun, W.Va.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410
Reverend Rivera, Pastor
In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Merry Christmas

Greenbelt Community Church

Whoever you are
and wherever you are
on your
Spiritual journey,
you are welcome HERE.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
God is still speaking.

**This Sunday's Sermon
on Facebook Live
Sunday at 10:15**

Our YES! To Life & God's Radiance

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 26 10 a.m.
Kwanzaa

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, PBUUC Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)
with Worship Associate John Barr

Kwanzaa Roots and Branches:
Where do we come from? How do we extend our reach?

And, as always, if you have a joy or sorrow that you would like shared aloud during this service, please email it to joys-sorrows@pbuuc.org by noon on Friday.

Newlyweds Alonzo and Rohey Washington celebrate with their bridesmaids and groomsmen on December 5.

PHOTO COURTESY ALONZO WASHINGTON



A Nativity scene is shown at 1 Gardenway.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

“Sacrifice yourself, your talent, your time, your rest to another, to one who has to bear a heavier load than you, and your unhappy mood will dissolve.” – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...
Merry Christmas!

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

December 24

five o'clock in the evening
eleven o'clock at night
livestreamed on Facebook

December 25

eight o'clock in the morning
eleven o'clock in the morning

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 CRESCENT ROAD
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Celebrate CHRISTMAS

O come let us adore him!

Community Events

At the Library

All Prince George’s County Memorial Library System branches will be closed Friday, December 24 through Monday, December 27 for the Christmas holiday. All regularly operating branches will reopen on Tuesday, December 28 at 1 p.m. The libraries also will be closed Friday, December 31, through Monday, January 3, for the New Year’s holiday, reopening on Tuesday, January 4 at 1 p.m.

Greenbelt Library regular hours: Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Local Blood Drives In January, February

As a result of low blood donor turnout in recent months, the Red Cross is heading into the holidays with its lowest blood supply in more than a decade.

To help, American Legion Post 136 is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, January 3. Greenbelt Recreation is holding blood drives on Fridays, January 14 and February 11. Multiple appointment times are available at each drive, but they fill up fast and walk-ins are not permitted.

Find the drives and sign up at redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive. Search zip code 20770 under Find a Drive.

Toastmasters Host Virtual Open House

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club is hosting a virtual Open House on Wednesday, December 29 at 7:30 p.m. Toastmasters provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving communication and leadership skills. Join in and get to know one of the most dynamic Toastmasters clubs in the area as they celebrate end-of-year achievements. Details for joining in remotely are available at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Give or Get Hats, Gloves and Scarves

Realty 1 is collecting and distributing hats, gloves and scarves. Anyone can give to or receive from Working Together to Keep Greenbelt Warm. Contact Linda Ivy at 301-675-0585 to donate or receive warm hats, gloves or scarves.

City Offers Rent, Utility Assistance

Through CARES, those who live within the city limits of Greenbelt are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per household from the American Rescue Plan Act federal funds for emergency rental assistance. Applicants must show financial hardship due to Covid-19. Previous recipients of rental or utility assistance funds can apply but the previous balances count toward the total grant award allowed.

Email Cares@greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-345-6660 to receive an application.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 27-31

Monday, December 27, **NO COUNCIL MEETING**
Tuesday, December 28 at 7:30pm, **GREENACES / GREEN TEAM**, *Agenda will be posted online when available*
Wednesday, December 29 , **NO COUNCIL MEETING**
Wednesday, December 29 at 8 pm, SPECIAL MEETING/ CLOSED SESSION, Meeting with the Acting City Manager. SEE OFFICIAL NOTICE BELOW.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, December 29th, 2021, at 8:00 pm, virtually via Zoom to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting will be to meet with the Acting City Manager.

** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session, and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session on Wednesday, December 29th, 2021.*

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31, in observance of the Christmas and New Year’s Holidays.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 20 and December 27
Monday Route – *no change*
Tuesday Route – *no change*
Wednesday Route – *no change*
Thursday Route – *no change*
There will be no appliance, metals, hard plastics, nor yard waste collections on Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31.

GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31.

FEELING STRETCHED AS A CAREGIVER?

Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes help caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a friend or relative. Whether you provide care for a spouse, partner, parent, friend, or a child with special needs; at home or in a care facility, whether down the block or miles away, yours is an important role. This course is for family caregivers like you!
This virtual six-week class series gives you the confidence and support to better care for your loved one – and yourself.

Classes will be hosted via Zoom on Wednesdays, from 10:00 am - 11:30 pm and begin January 5, 2022 thru February 9, 2022.

For more information or to register contact Katherine Farzin via Office: 240-542-2019 or Email: kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov



Does your pre-school aged child enjoy helping you cook, like exploring, and love to learn? Then check out Greenbelt Recreation’s pre-school programs **Mom’s Morning Out** and **Pre-School Enrichment and Fun**.

Mom’s Morning Out is a licensed traditional pre-school program that focuses on social development, fine and gross motor skills, listening, and following instructions. The Pre-School Enrichment and Fun program focuses on group games, sports skills, cooking classes, nature walks, science experiments, and much more. Both programs have a heavy emphasis on learning in a fun way! We offer pre-school programs Monday through Friday at the Youth Center. Financial aid is available for eligible Greenbelt residents.

For more information, visit our Virtual Recreation Center online at greenbeltmd.gov/recreation or give us a call at 301-397-2200.



GREEN RIDGE HOUSE OPENS WAIT LIST

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt’s HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from Tuesday, January 18 thru 21, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older. All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver’s License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items. All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one’s income within a maximum gross income of \$45,150 for individuals and \$51,600 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY’S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas).. This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301-474-8000

THE KEEPER SESSIONS YOUTH NETWORK SESSSIONS

Topics include: career readiness training, career exploration activites, job search assistance, decision-making, coping skills, critical life skills

Tuesdays in January from January 4, 2022 at 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Contact dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov | 202-740-6473
dstephenson@greenbeltmd.gov | 240-706-3861

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION!

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. Public Works will pickup trees at locations listed online. Please insure all ornaments and lights are removed. Drop off your trees for recycling at specified areas up until February 11, 2022.

<https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/public-works/trash-recycling/christmas-tree-collection>

Greenbelt American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Assistance Update:
(as of 12/20/21)

Rent and Utility Assistance:
147 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$431,661.76

Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance: 2 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$5,519.56

Greenbelt Community Center is seeking new team members!

Recreation Assistants (Community Center)

Part-time, supportive work culture.

If you enjoy working with the public, please apply at **www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs**

Electronics, Styrofoam & Paint Recycling

Saturday, January 22, 2022 9 AM - 12 NOON
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent

NO Alkaline Batteries
NO Tube TVs

\$5 per paint container

Questions? Call 301-474-8004

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

Starts on Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Free services offered:

Diapers, formula, baby accessories monthly; baby wellness nursing assessment; baby milestone progress review; information/resource linkage; healthy eating education

This program is available to:
Families living in the city limits of Greenbelt
Children ages newborn to 3 years old
Children who wear diapers or pull-ups

To register, call 240-542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov

GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN!

Classes for children and adults! Fitness, Art, Swimming, Dance, Yoga, Ceramics, & More...

Check out our Winter 2022 Activity Guide for gift ideas or call Greenbelt Recreation at 301-397-2200

greenbeltmd.gov/recreation

WINTER 2022 ACTIVITY GUIDE

Now Available Online

Register at <https://bit.ly/3o6r0A1>

Classes begin the week of January 3, 2022



COUNCIL continued from page 1

speed up the process and partly to avoid giving the impression that a particular item might be treated more or less seriously. He also suggested that a derisive response discouraged petitioners. He noted that in the last regular meeting in November, despite a request to councilmembers to refrain from comment, a quarter of the time devoted to petitions and requests was taken up by council responses. This included a minute and a half spent “admonishing” a resident for speaking for over five minutes to present three requests. Theis said that if council continues “speaking when it should be listening,” they are “taking a freedom for themselves that they are not extending to the public.” Jordan, presumably in the spirit of Theis’s request, merely acknowledged the comment.

Braden Field Baseball

Ruth White, a College Park resident and Greenbelt baseball coach, expressed her disappointment that requests for improvements on Braden Field are not in the new Master Plan. While congratulating the city on its overall maintenance and care of the ballfields, she requested the inclusion in the Master Plan of a three-year schedule to upgrade the facilities, covering equipment improvements and regrading of the uneven field surfaces.

Reparations

Lore Rosenthal pointed out that she has seen no mention of the reparations commission in any forthcoming agendas and that she feels it is time to get going.

GreenACES Reports

Michael Hartman was saddened that the GreenACES reports were put on the consent agenda because he felt they should get an airing but, as Davis explained, the process through which the various recommendations go means most reports become subjects for a worksession and may also be routed through the various planning boards.

City Manager

In a reference to City Manager Nicole Ard, a series of closed meetings were held during summer and fall to discuss her performance evaluation but no comment was forthcoming during the meeting on anything resulting from those meetings nor was any action taken during the closed meetings. (However, see story, page 1.)

Administrative Reports

Assistant City Manager Tim George reported that staff had kicked off preliminary budget discussions. He announced two new public information staff, James Wisniewski for city written materials and Leila Brown for videos, council meetings and workshops. George noted that active petitions and requests will be part of the city report in the future. He also noted that Public Works Director Jim Sterling was in his last few weeks on the job. After 37 years of service to the city, Sterling is retiring.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts questioned why asphalt millings are being dumped at the end of Northway and George took the action to research the concern. In response to a question from Councilmember Kristen Weaver, he noted that the number of households assisted by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is now in Section 9 of the weekly city report (editorial note: and will also be

in the News Review’s City Notes column going forward).

Police Information

Jordan commented on the recent decline in the amount of information appearing in the weekly police report that is posted on the web and which forms the basis of the weekly Police Blotter in the News Review. (Editorial note: editorial staff are engaged with Chief Richard Bowers and his staff in framing a workable process to acquire essential information promptly.)

The motion relating to Police Reform Procedures for the Greenbelt Police Department was recommended for a second reading. There had been some expectation that it would come to a vote that evening but some information was missing, effectively postponing any action.

Pickleball

Council reacted positively to a proposal to place pickleball lines on several tennis courts to accommodate the current pickleball peak. This action would increase pickleball courts in the city from 0 to 8.

Jordan, a well-known tennis aficionado with a commanding court presence and a deadly serve, recused himself from the discussion.

ARPA Funding

As of December 13, 136 Greenbelt households have received rental and utilities help from ARPA funding, using about \$475K of the \$500,000 originally funded for rental assistance. CARES Director Dr. Elizabeth Park requested the city transfer money from a similar fund set up for assistance on mortgage/homeowner’s associations (HOA) payments to take them through February. This money remains untouched, with only nine inquiries and zero completed requests. Council agreed to transfer \$300,000 from that fund to the rental and utility assistance fund, despite resistance from Roberts. Discussion ensued on why the HOA/mortgage assistance fund remained unused with Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope both noting that their respective HOAs had not distributed any information and suggesting higher levels of outreach. There was also speculation that hardship may be

more prevalent among the rental community, with Councilmember Ric Gordon noting that there was generally a significant difference in pay and employment status between those who rent and those who can afford to own.

Legislative Program

In building the city’s list of legislative priorities that relate to the state, county and school board, city staff recommends a small number of priorities as the most effective approach to capture the interest of other legislative bodies. The current list contains several items and Jordan noted that the first several things on it are all things the city opposes. He felt that the city would do better to stress what it wants – the positive – rather than what it doesn’t want. Expanding on his thoughts, Davis also suggested dividing up the list by jurisdiction level, with city “asks” for state, county and school board listed separately. Though, as Weaver pointed out, the city currently has its students going to Greenbelt schools, Pope emphasized that the new developments coming soon would escalate school demands and that it was important to be vigilant about school boundaries. She did note that Springhill Lake Elementary was on the list for replacement in the next few years.

There was a discussion on the relative merits of demanding that all new developments be all electric – with environmentally conscious councilmembers not necessarily agreeing on what was environmentally sound. Most councilmembers seemed willing to jump on the electrification bandwagon, but Roberts noted that since most electricity was still generated from coal, electrification of buildings wasn’t yet a clean alternative and that electric heat can be particularly inefficient compared to natural gas – causing the burning of even more coal.

These recommendations were requested by city staff to inform them as they draft presentations to state, county and schoolboard officials.



State Covid Postings Resume, Schools Close, Tests Scarce

by Cathie Meetre

Over the last almost two weeks, Covid-19 data sites operated by the Maryland Department of Health have not been posting new data and sites that depend on them as a source are therefore also posting no data. The site experienced a server outage as the result of a network security incident. As of December 20, they report that 90 percent of state-level surveillance data for confirmed cases, persons tested negative, testing volume and positivity rate have been restored. Using today’s published numbers as a baseline, they anticipate 24-hour updates will resume December 21.

Maryland Department of Health continues to work to reinstate the full Covid-19 dataset and will resume reporting more surveillance information – including deaths and numbers by jurisdiction – as soon as possible, but no specific date has been set. Vaccine data and hospitalizations remain current as of December 20.


Schools and Tests

With a significant surge in students testing positive (155 on Wednesday, December 15) Prince George’s County schools are reverting to remote learning until mid-January. This rapid rise in cases spurred a demand for Covid-19 testing, which was in short supply after at least some testing sites had closed their doors by fall. The drive-through Luminis Health test site, at 6201 Belcrest Road in Hyattsville, was inundated with carloads of one to five persons during its 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. schedule on Thursday,

December 16. The site, perhaps the closest to Greenbelt for which no appointment is required, had its first car arrive an hour prior to opening and waits grew to nearly two-and-a-half hours. The site uses the PCR test (which takes three days to return) but was closed to new vehicles around 1:30 p.m. as the supply of test kits was limited and the line already contained enough cars to extend beyond their closing time.

Information on test sites can be found on the Maryland Department of Health website (coronavirus.maryland.gov). Click on Testing and then Find a Testing Site Near You and check the interactive map. For Greenbelt, the website lists 70 test locations within a five-mile radius and has information on costs, whether an appointment is needed and also offers contact information for inquiries.





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Prowling through Undergrowth: Artist Randi Reiss-McCormack

by Nicole DeWald

The cinematic flicker of piercing sunlight through a tree canopy or the twisted tendrils of vines surging through space on their own timescale might be one way to describe to a friend the experience of traversing a particular landscape. Baltimore County artist Randi Reiss-McCormack shares her impressions of walks in the woods by describing landscape through the unusual medium of rug tufting. Her fiber arts and paintings are represented in the current exhibition Prowling the Undergrowth at the Community Center Art Gallery.

The title piece in the show was constructed specifically with this gallery in mind – scaled to fit a half-wall above the charming wooden cubbies in this former classroom space. Constructed in four sections and mounted on wood framing, the fully assembled piece measures 4' x 20'. The artwork with its soft, gently undulating depths, is composed of individual short fibers applied by hand to a mesh backing. Reiss-McCormack created the piece over several months in 2020, taking advantage of added discretionary time during the pandemic as other opportunities were curtailed. The piece is bright and dynamic, an accumulation of sensory impressions and subconscious resonances of a landscape experienced over time. More abstract than pictorial, the piece nonetheless teases with seeming allusions to plant forms, water and agricultural activity.

Reiss-McCormack is a perennial experimenter who has utilized many media through the years, both in isolation and in combination. These include painting, printmaking, photography, beading, tufting, papermaking and recently, embroidery. She has created three-dimensional constructions as well as flat and shallow-relief works for the wall.

“Intuition is a leading force in my work,” Reiss-McCormack notes. “The decision to work deeply in different media is fed by an interest in the transformative effect that is created by the process of each medium. The rituals and applications of the process have a guiding influence and bring the work closer to that intuitive realm.” Her work engages the viewer in her lively



Randi Reiss-McCormack stands in front of her artwork.

sense of aesthetic adventure. In the words of ArtWatch reviewer Tom Wachanus, commenting on a group show in which her work was featured, her work evinces and entices us to adopt the outlook, “I wonder; therefore, I live.”

The pairing of Reiss-McCormack’s paintings in the current show with her fiber work illustrates the artist’s grounding in a well-developed and distinctive visual language that carries over from one medium to the next. Her visual language also bridges the diverse types of source imagery that have informed her work at different times in her career, including vintage pop culture and graffiti, among others.

Reiss-McCormack has been honored with a Trawick prize and several Maryland State Arts Council individual artist grants in different categories. Her work has been published in a variety of publications including New American Paintings. She has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions across the country and internationally. A video interview with the artist, including studio footage, is in production, and may be posted as soon as this week at greenbeltnmd.gov/arts.

Randi Reiss-McCormack: Prowling the Undergrowth will be on view at the Community Center Art Gallery through January

21. Normal hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Holiday adjustments are as follows: Monday through Thursday, December 20-23 and 27-30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Friday and Saturday, December 24, 25, 31 and January 1. Masks are required. Visitors should use the historic entrance facing Crescent Road, where they will undergo a quick health screening upon entry. Arts programs of the City of Greenbelt are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Nicole DeWald is the Arts Supervisor for the City of Greenbelt.



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www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com



Randi Reiss-McCormack, “Prowling the Undergrowth” (section 4)



Randi Reiss-McCormack, “Sauntering” (oil on canvas)

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CALL 301-336-0285
ASK 4 SKIP

If you have a car /truck in your yard, storage or at another shop and you want to get another opinion call us, old or new

Season's Greetings
from
Mary Lou Williamson

To All My Greenbelt Friends and Neighbors

Wishing you all a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness!

- Judith “J” Davis

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
FROM COUNCILMEMBER
COLIN BYRD

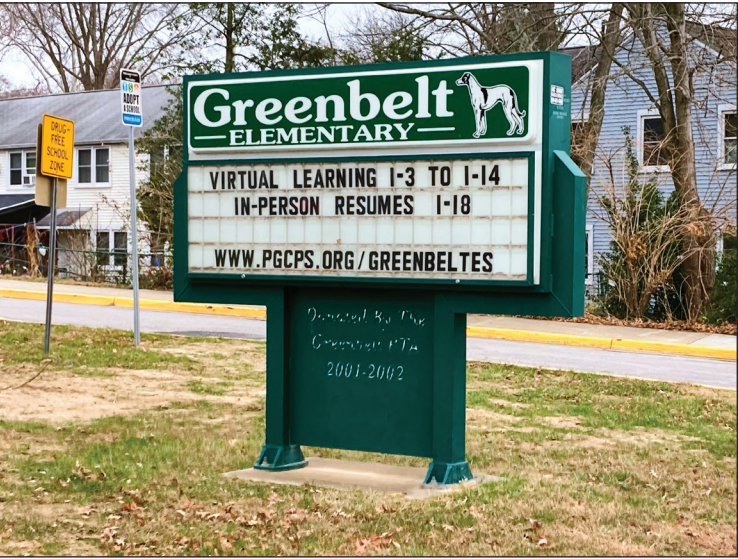
It's the most wonderful time of the year.

CHRISTMAS DAY
NFL
BROWNS AT PACKERS | 4:30PM ON FOX 5/NFL NETWORK
COLTS AT CARDINALS | 8:15PM ON NFL NETWORK

NBA
HAWKS AT KNICKS | 12PM ON ESPN
CELTICS AT BUCKS | 2:30PM ON ABC
WARRIORS AT SUNS | 5PM ON ABC
NETS AT LAKERS | 8PM ON ABC / ESPN
MAVERICKS AT JAZZ | 10:30PM ON ESPN

AUTHORITY: COLIN BYRD FOR GREENBELT
TREASURER: ABDUL ADESANYA

SCHOOLS continued from page 1



The sign in front of Greenbelt Elementary School lists the dates that PGCPs will move to virtual learning.

unequivocally the correct thing to do,” wrote Melinda Brady, the fifth-grade science and social studies teacher at Berwyn Heights Elementary School. “I am, however, deeply concerned about how long we may be back online and what that will mean for my students. Virtual schooling doesn’t offer the same kind of support in-person school does. It’s not just the academics, although that’s bad enough. It’s the social-emotional cost to the kids as well. I have several students who have talked about how isolated they felt at home.”

Patrick Gleason, English teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), added, “I am quite sad about it. I want to be safe but am fearful for the mental health of teachers and students alike. The hundreds of mini-interactions with students throughout the day during in-person learning energizes me. I know the energy last year took from me and I can’t imagine doing an extended period of time this year.”

Nahl Ilyas-Gleason, who teaches seventh and eighth grade math to ESOL students at Charles Carroll Middle School, explained how startling the announcement was. “My students asked me on Thursday [December 16] to do a secret Santa with them and by Friday evening those plans were completely changed and

cancelled. ... I hope we are not online for too long but I understand that precautions need to be taken.”

Ian Gleason, a sixth-grade math teacher at Charles Carroll Middle School, said the transition will not be too hard on him. “I have had two hybrid sections of students all year so I have been using Zoom in a smaller capacity this year than last but I would much rather stay in-person,” he said. “I think it is important to take precautions and I am glad that we will be keeping students safe but I wish we didn’t have to go this route again because I know many students will struggle with virtual learning.”

Amie Littman, an English teacher at ERHS, added, “Overall, I think it was the right decision to have the schools go virtual so close to the holidays, especially with the uptick after Thanksgiving. I wish there had been more time to prepare and the opportunity to tell students in person what this would look like. I am hopeful that the community will take the appropriate precautions while we are out so we will be able to return in January as planned.”

Call for Artists

The New Deal Café is looking for artists to participate in a group art show titled New Scene, an exploration of abstract and mixed-media art. The show will be on view during January and February in the Café. Send submissions to Artshows@freeartforall.org by Saturday, December 25 for consideration. There is no limit on the number of submissions.

Car Auction

December 6-21, 2021, 10 am

4EJP Morgan Court
Waldorf MD, 20601

1974 CHEVROLET IMPALA
1N39RY159827

2014 FORD TRANSIT
NMOAE8F76E1143929

1996 CHEVROLET IMPALA
1G1BL52P8TR105997

2013 CHEVROLET MALIBU
1G11F5SR3DF137928

Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Luminis Health Joins Doctors Hospital for New Capabilities

by Cathie Meetre

Doctors Hospital on Good Luck Road in Lanham has long been Greenbelt’s nearest hospital. Opened in 1975, it was the default destination for Greenbelt’s emergency ambulance services. Two years ago, Anne Arundel Health System joined forces with Doctors to create a new venture, Luminis Health, with the intent to keep medicine local in their respective areas by being “big enough to make a difference in the communities we serve, but small enough to continue to provide high quality care in a personalized way.”

The renamed Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center continues the original hospital’s 40-year local legacy. Its sister facility, Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, is also set to continue serving its local population in the Annapolis area.

In the Deep End

Luminis took over Doctors Hospital just ahead of the Covid-19 epidemic and, in the ensuing whirlwind, its medical staff rapidly joined the frontlines as victims poured in. Today it is still responding to Covid-19 needs and its community health team is busy vaccinating residents through mobile clinics at churches, colleges, community centers, residential complexes and barber shops in the area. To date,



Artist’s rendition of the planned Luminis Doctors Hospital mental health pavilion

it has administered more than 68,000 Covid-19 vaccines in the county.

Behavioral Health

Thanks to a \$20-million grant from Prince George’s County, Luminis is building a new behavioral health pavilion on the Doctors’ campus. The facility will offer behavioral health services and patient-centered care to residents suffering from mental health and substance use disorders. Outpatient services are scheduled to open in summer of 2022 and inpatient services by next December.

Goals and Initiatives

Luminis plans to submit a Certificate of Need to bring obstetrics to its Lanham campus to address the fact that more than 80 percent of Prince George’s mothers deliver their babies in

other counties. Luminis is committed to addressing the disparities in health outcomes for women of color and aims to eliminate maternal and infant mortality. It is also striving to be the employer of choice in the region and has recently launched a \$29-million employee compensation and benefits program to recruit and retain a highly qualified workforce.

In 2022, Luminis Doctors Hospital plans to target diabetes prevention, expand the hospital’s surgical care team and enhance its oncology team.

This article is based on a recent press release from Deneen Richmond, president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, who grew up and still lives in Prince George’s County.

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- Wine and Beer to TOAST the New Year
- Traditional Foods to Bring GOOD LUCK
- Citrus Fest to Ring in a HEALTHY New Year

Police Blotter

Information in this article is provided courtesy of the Greenbelt Police Department and summarizes incidents occurring from December 13 through 18. Times given are based on the time the incident was reported. Individuals who may have relevant information are requested to contact the department. The non-emergency number is 301-474-7200 or email greenbeltpd@greenbeltmd.gov.

Assault
On December 14 at 10:59 a.m. in the 8100 block of Lakecrest Drive, an argument between a tenant and a maintenance worker became physical. On December 18 at 10:37 p.m. in the 6200 block of Springhill Drive, two adult females were involved in an altercation. On December 13 at 8:24 p.m. in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Road, an argument between an employee and a customer became physical. The same day at 8:08 p.m. in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Road, an individual assaulted an employee after their payment method could not be used.

Burglary
On December 15, in the 6200 block of Springhill Court, a residence was reported burglarized and items taken. On December 19, in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane, property was taken from a residence.

Fraud
On December 13, a resident in the 100 block of Centerway put a check in a mailbox. The check was subsequently altered by an unknown individual. Late the same day in the 7900 block of Lakecrest Drive, an individual was messaged over Instagram from a friend's account asking for money but the account had been hacked.

Gun Found
On December 18, a person who recently bought property found a firearm on their new residence and brought it to the station for disposal.

Robbery
On December 18 at 8:55 p.m. in the 6200 block of Springhill Drive, an individual reported being approached by five or six males, one of whom produced a firearm and demanded property. Officers located and arrested one juvenile male.

Shoplifting
On both December 13 and 14, there were shoplifting incidents in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Road. In addition, on December 18 at 4:47 a.m. in the 7900 block of Good Luck Road, a person took merchandise from the store and left. Outside, when confronted by an employee, the person displayed a knife and the employee received a minor laceration. On December 17 at 3:53 p.m. in the 7400 block of Greenbelt Road, there was a shoplifting incident.

Theft
On December 14 in the 9300 block of Edmonston Road and on December 17 in the 6100 block of Springhill Terrace, there were package thefts. On December 18 a theft was reported in the 400 block of Ridge Road, and also during the evening of December 19 in the 9000 block of Breezewood Terrace, Christmas decorations were found to have been taken from outside a residence. On the afternoon of December 17 at 7800 Walker Drive, someone stole items from various cubicles during an office Christmas party. On the evening of December 14 in the 100 block of Centerway, a tip jar was stolen.

On December 16 in the 5900

block of Cherrywood Terrace, multiple mailboxes were damaged and mail was taken.
On December 19 in the 7400 block of Greenbelt Road, items were taken from a locker.
Vehicle-related Incidents
On December 16 in the 6000 block of Springhill Drive, a 2004 BMW was reported stolen but turned out to have been towed.
On December 14 in the 9100 block of Edmonston Road, a stolen vehicle was recovered. On December 15 in the 6100 block of Breezewood Court, a catalytic converter was reported stolen.
On December 15 in the 7000 block of Mandan Road, two vehicles had windows broken and were rummaged through and on December 18, a gray 2012 Jeep Compass was reported stolen from the same block. In the 7000 block of Mandan Road on December 17, a rear passenger side window was reported broken and the vehicle rummaged through, though nothing was taken.
On December 18 at 10:51 p.m. in the 9200 block of Springhill Lane, a 2013 black Chrysler 200's tires were slashed and the front and rear windshield smashed. On December 19 at 12:51 a.m. at the intersection of Cherrywood Lane / Cherrywood Court there was a DUI arrest.
On December 19 in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane, items were taken from a vehicle.



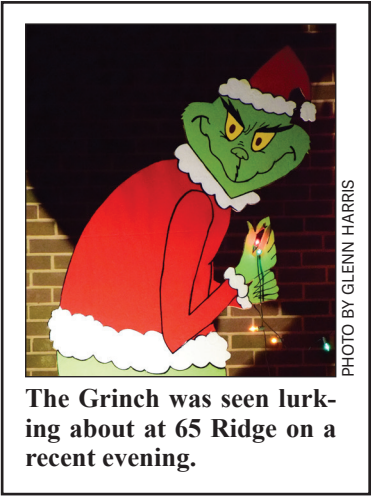
Council Okays Buddy Attick Parking Lot Despite Tree Loss

by Cathie Meetre

The motion to move forward with the contract for the long-planned reconstruction of the Buddy Attick Park parking lot sparked the inevitable debate on the destruction of trees. Although all the relevant planning and advisory boards have agreed to the plan, Councilmember Rodney Roberts mounted a last-ditch skirmish with a motion to table the issue to the next regular council meeting to ensure the public would see an accurate tagging of the trees scheduled to come down. The motion to table was seconded by Councilmember Colin Byrd but was emphatically defeated by all but Roberts, including Byrd, voting against. Roberts also abruptly challenged the veracity of statements by Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby about how many and which trees were affected, drawing a warning from the mayor to remain civil. Councilmember Judith Davis noted that the reconstruction of the parking lot had two purposes: one to improve stormwater man-

agement and the other to provide a sidewalk suitable for handicapped access. The removal of the trees, though regrettable, had sufficient justification and was the best available option. Hruby noted that many alternatives were considered in order to optimize the various requirements and concern for retaining trees was always a factor in the decision.
Solar Photovoltaic Future
Residents John Lippert and Lore Rosenthal both raised the possibility of adding solar panels to the parking area to generate power for electric vehicles in the future and Hruby said there was no implicit barrier to that possibility.
As Mayor Emmett Jordan started to move to the vote, Roberts made a last statement calling the plan a "mindless action of cutting our trees down." He noted that stormwater is not the problem causing climate change – cutting down the trees is the problem and deforestation is the cause. Nonetheless, the motion to proceed passed, with Roberts the only dissenter.

City Notes
The city's rent support program reported that no eviction notices were received for any part of the city.
Planning and Public Works discussed solar panel installation at bus stops. Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability/Environmental collected 24.52 tons of refuse and 11.15 tons of recycling material and received a \$100,000 award for their BigBelly recycling project.
At the Community Center, staff conducted a fire drill.
The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program offered a produce and diaper distribution.
Building Maintenance repaired a water heater.
The Aquatic & Fitness Center offered lifeguard swim prep training and concluded their Toys for Tots collection.
Arts staff concluded the fall open studio session. Currently on view in the Art Gallery are artworks by Randi Reiss-McCormack.
Recreation staff presented North Pole Calling and December Days events. Twenty-one seniors received frozen meals thanks to Therapeutic Recreation's efforts.
At Schrom Hills Park, park rangers facilitated a CHEARS poetry reading event and observed increased usage of electric vehicle charging stations.



The Grinch was seen lurking about at 65 Ridge on a recent evening.

visit www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Happy Holidays

THE GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW, OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EDITOR, AND STAFF WISH YOU A PEACEFUL AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON. LET PEACE AND HOPE REMAIN IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU BEGIN A NEW YEAR. WITH MANY THANKS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

To Greenbelt Friends & Neighbors

May 2022 Be Peaceful Productive & Prosperous

Leta and Darrell Mach

Merry Christmas

from MCF Community Church

MCFcc.org

HAPPY Holidays!

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WINTER LAWN CARE SERVICE – Greenbelt (GHI) resident providing dependable yard maintenance. Service includes removal of leaves, mulching, trimming shrubs, and removal of plants or shrubs. Pressure washing available weather permitting. Reasonable rates. Please call or text 240-391-8615.

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com. AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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MANAGER continued from page 1

“City Manager Nicole Ard’s last day with the City of Greenbelt will be December 18, 2021. During her nearly five-year tenure, operational improvements and capital projects were completed.” The statement quoted Ard as saying, “I appreciate city council’s allowing me the opportunity to serve. I thank each city employee for their service, particularly during the pandemic.”

During a worksession held Monday, December 20, Mayor Emmett Jordan added to the mes-

sage by wishing Ard, “the best moving forward.”

Both statements introduced Tim George (with the city for six months as assistant city manager) as the acting city manager. Jordan extolled George’s experience and leadership skills and welcomed him to his new position.

According to a press release from the city of Fairfield, Ohio, Ard is on the list of qualified individuals whose credentials are being evaluated for the vacant city manager position there.

Winter Wonderland



Guests gather around campfires in the parking lot behind the Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church.



Santa poses with the Greenbelt Fire Department's vintage fire truck next to the GCERT first aid canopy.

- Photos by Christian Horchler

Water Pipe Stalemate Remains As GHI, WSSC, City Grapple

by Matt Arbach

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has offered to maintain the water pipe system for Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) for another 30 years, after which they propose transferring ownership to GHI. WSSC initially accepted ownership in a still-abiding 1958 agreement. This is their best offer in a 12-year stalemate concerning this long-standing concern over a system that was built in the mid-1930s to early 1940s. The system has already experienced breakages and disruption of service, creating great inconvenience to GHI residents. While GHI’s ideal resolution would be for WSSC to inspect, repair or replace the pipes and maintain them in perpetuity, both city council and GHI feel that this is an unlikely expectation and that a negotiated compromise will be the eventual conclusion. WSSC proposes that this 30-year stewardship will allow GHI the opportunity to gather financial reserves to replace and maintain the pipes themselves.

City Supports GHI

At a council worksession on December 15, GHI shared its goals and frustrations on this predicament, seeking city action and support moving forward. The city was part of the three-party 1958 agreement including GHI and WSSC, thus making city approval key to future developments. Council expressed complete support to GHI on any next steps that it seeks to make and will assist in getting the best possible result. GHI hoped for council and city legal participation at any upcoming negotiations, including the signing off of any drafted letters to WSSC, which council has done in the past. Encouraged by this latest offer, GHI is expecting to use it as a starting point for further negotiations.

GHI is keen on starting this process as soon as possible, as a potential disaster looms with this aging pipe system. WSSC gave a recent estimate of two years merely to plan the project before any digging could take place.

Not So Easy

At the meeting, GHI General Manager Eldon Ralph indicated

the adjacent and equally aged sewer lines also need replacing. While he said that WSSC has not made any definitive offers on this, they did seem receptive to the idea.

GHI resident Molly Lester expressed skepticism that limited GHI staff and equipment would be up to the task.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts, referencing the current memorandum of understanding with WSSC to maintain the pipes, complained that by allowing the pipes to continue to fail and only responding to emergencies, WSSC was shirking on their role in the agreement. Councilmember Judith Davis countered that from WSSC’s point of view, by simply doing that, they are abiding by their responsibility and don’t see a need to do otherwise.

Meter Relocation Impact

GHI indicated that WSSC has possible intentions of moving all their water meters from the homes to the curbside. Said GHI Board President Stefan Brodd (in a separate interview), “As WSSC is responsible only for water lines from the meters, if they are moved, GHI will own and become responsible for thousands of feet, and likely millions of dollars, of water supply infrastructure which will affect future generations of GHI members.”

GHI Session Planned

The GHI Board of Directors plans to set up an open session with the membership to share these developments and their strategies since, according to the bylaws, member approval is required on any vital decisions to the community.



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Two Additions! Full bath with shower and tub on main level. Large fenced corner lot with deck and shed. Mini-split HVAC. Lots of space inside!
Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.
Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.
Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI townhome on corner lot. Large fenced back yard, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.
4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.
Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With Stainless Steel appliances.
Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.
Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome w/ updated throughout. Modern kitchen with dishwasher. Hardwood flooring on both levels.
Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full bathroom, washer & dryer in separate unit. Hardwood finished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!
2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Don't miss this one!
Full Attached Inlaw apartment 5 BR, 4 Bath home w/ 1/2 of S.D. Elevator to bottom level. 2 Full kitchens, generator, fireplace & more.
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**Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center**

Season's Greetings from the City of Greenbelt

Each year at this time we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. As 2021 draws to a close, the City Council, City employees, and members of Council's Advisory Boards and Committees wish all citizens a safe and joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

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Jane Young **(5 years)**

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Alyssa Scianella
Jonathan Schnurr
Gillian Seegars
Daniel Seo
Grace Seo
A. J. Sesay
Jim Shaffer
Daniel Shaibu
Allan Shapiro
Brittney Shue
Melissa Sites
Teresa Smith
Byron Snowden
Amanda Sorensen
Caroline Soter
Chris Speight
Danielle Staggars
Elizabeth Staggars
Nastassja Stephens
Jennifer Sterling
Maureen Stottin
Rebekah Sutton
Angelina Sutton
Veijune Svotelis
Ian Talley
Breanna Taylor
Daniel Taylor
Harriett Taylor
Elizabeth Thomas
Maya Thomas
Annacherie Thompson
Ashely Thompson
Janean' Tinker
Paige Tinsley
Cheryl Townsend
Teresa Trozzo
Anna Tuit-Farquhar
Catherine Turner
Beverly Udegbe
Jaylen Vines
Marsha Voigt
Ashli Walker
Valerie Watson
Christian Webb
Jenna Whelan
Doug White
Emily White
Ruth White
Rose Whitten
Otilie Wilcox
Zuri Williams
Mira Willson
Alexandria Wilson
Nicholas Wilson
Gail Young
Danny Zolt